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USMA BOARD OF VISITORS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 7, 1978

ACTION
is assigned to
ARA

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recently, Mr. Ragnas Hagelin brought to my attention the plight of his missing daughter, Miss Dagmar Ingrid Hagelin.

Mr. Hagelin, who with his family holds dual citizenship in Sweden as well as Argentina, expressed great concern for the safety of his daughter who was kidnapped in Buenos Aires in January 1977. Miss Hagelin, who appears to have no connection with any political activities, has remained one of the several thousand unaccounted for victims of the unrest taking place in that nation.

I have been informed that Miss Hagelin's name is included on the list of disappeared persons compiled by our Embassy in Buenos Aires. I urge you to look into this matter and request the Government of Argentina to actively pursue the facts of this case and provide an accounting of Miss Hagelin's whereabouts.

For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the background on this case as presented to me by Mr. Hagelin. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Benjamin A. Gilman

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Enclosure

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BACKGROUND ON THE CASE OF THE SWEDISH CITIZEN, DAGMAR INGRID HAGELIN, KIDNAPPED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ON JANUARY OF 1977, IN BUENOS AIRES.

Dagmar Ingrid Hagelin
Born: Buenos Aires, Argentina
On: September 29, 1959
Citizenship: Swedish-Argentine

Argentine Document # 6 309 618
Swedish Passport # U.R. - 075917

1) 1-26-77 -A friend of Miss Hagelin, Norma Burgos, is arrested between 5 and 6 PM in a street of Buenos Aires

-The Navy requests of the Moron Police Headquarters of the west side of Buenos Aires to send a radiogram to all stations in the area stating that a military operation was to take place that afternoon. The action was to be carried out by the Navy School of Mechanics Unit at Sargento Cabral Street, # 317, in the town of Palomar. The radiogram specified that the operation would be carried out in four cars; three Falcons, one white, one green and one light blue; and one blue Chevy.

-At about 10:25 PM the four automobiles arrive at the above mentioned address, Norma Burgos being in one of them.

-After riding the house, the four cars left, taking Norma Burgos with them, and leaving 7 military men in the house overnight. They were carrying machine guns, and had on bullet-proof jackets. Norma Burgos' parents and her little baby remained in the house also.

2). 1-27-77 -At about 8:30 AM, without knowing what had happened, Miss Hagelin arrived at her friend Norma's house, to ask her about her vacation plans. Being confronted by the group of armed men, she became scared and ran. Two of the men followed her, through Pampa street, one of them took his pistol out and shot at her once. Once she fell, one of them goes toward her, and the other one approaches a taxi cab driver pointing the machine gun at him. He tells the cab driver that they are Federal Police (obviously that wasn't true) and that he is to give them the taxi.

-They drive the taxi to the spot where Miss Hagelin was and placed her in the trunk of the car. Due to mechanical failure, they are unable to close the trunk, so they call on the cab driver to help them close it. It was at that moment that the cab driver, along with other people standing around, saw that Miss Hagelin, in spite of being wounded, was pushing up with both hands from inside the trunk. They managed to close the trunk, drove around the block, picked up the other five men, and drove away taking Miss Hagelin with them.

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3) 1-28-77 -In the morning, Ragnar Hagelin, Miss Hagelin's father, went to the Swedish Embassy in Buenos Aires and requested diplomatic immunity for his daughter. The Swedish ambassador, Pert Bertil Kollberg, granted it, and communicated this to the Foreign Minister of Argentina.

-Mr. Kollberg contacted the Moron and Palomar police stations and both confirmed officially that the operation was indeed an official military action, duly registered in both stations.

4) 1-29-77 -The Swedish Foreign Ministry in Stockholm called the Argentine Ambassador in Sweden, Dr. Dardo Cocchio, and presented him with a note of protest and a request of clarification on the case.

5) 1-30-77 -Mr. Hagelin, accompanied by a military man, went to the house of the cab owner to get all the facts concerning his cab, which was taken away.

6) 1-31-77 -The Swedish Ambassador met with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Cesar Augusto Guzzetti.

7) 2-1-77 -The Swedish Ambassador sends a letter to the Foreign Ministry relating all the information gathered from the cab owner.

8) 2-14-77 -The Swedish Government holds a special session to discuss the Dagmar Hagelin case.

9) 2-15-77 -The Swedish Foreign Minister, Mrs. Karin Soder, holds an international press conference to inform about the Hagelin case and about a telegram sent to Guzzetti.

10) 2-16-77 -Men dressed in civilian clothes went to the cab owner's house, gave him the keys to the cab, instruct him of its location (in the town of San Martin) and order him with threats, to say that he found it in El Palomar.

-The US Embassy in Buenos Aires adds Dagmar to its list of disappeared people, and promises the Swedish embassy to help in the case.

11) 2-19-77 -The Argentine Foreign Minister, Guzzetti, answers Mrs. Soder's telegram, stating that the Argentine authorities continue to look for Dagmar and agrees with the Swedish authorities that Dagmar's abduction was an act of vandalism, promising to punish those responsible for it.

[illegible]-2-77 - Mrs. Soder calls again on the Argentine Ambassador in Sweden presenting a more energetic protest.

-17-77 - The Swedish Minister of Agriculture, Chief of the delegation to the UN Water Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina, accompanied by Ambassador Kollberg, visit the Minister of Planning, Gral Diaz Bessone, and ask him to intervene in the case.

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14) 4-12-77 -Mr. Hagelin presents a writ of habeas corpus to the Argentine Justice Department. (No response thus far has been received).

15) 4-14-77 -Mr. Hagelin moves to Sweden with his family.

16) 5-3-77 -The Swedish Prime Minister, Falldin, meets with Mr. Hagelin, and that same day sends a telegram to President Videla, asking him for the release of Dagmar Hagelin.

17) 7-1-77 -The Swedish Vice minister of Foreign Affairs meets with Mr. Terrence Todman in Washington, who promises US support to the Swedish authorities on this case.

18) 7-19-77 -The Swedish Naval Attache in Washington DC met the Argentine Vice Admiral, Mendia, member of the Inter-American Defense Board, requesting his help in this case.

-Later on in the month, Vice Admiral Mendia reported to the Swedish Embassy in Washington. He accused Dagmar Hagelin with having been involved in political activity, and claiming that in fact she had gone underground, which is a lethal lie.

19) 8-16-77 -President Videla answered Prime Minister Falldin's telegram reassuring him that the Argentine government continued looking for Dagmar and promising that the case was to be solved.

20) 8-18-77 -The Prime Minister Falldin answers President Videla, expressing his regrets that, after so many months, there is not a more positive answer. Falldin also informs him that the Swedish government and all Swedish public opinion urges President Videla to act on behalf of Dagmar.

21) -During the month of September, the international Conference of INTERPOL was held in Stockholm. The Head of the Argentine Federal Police, Gral. Edmundo Ojeda, had an interview on that occasion with a Swedish magazine, where he stated that Argentine Police and the Military both were searching for Dagmar, hoping to find her alive and return her to Sweden.

22) -During the last General Assembly of the UN in New York City, the Swedish Foreign Minister, Mrs. Soder, met with the Argentine Foreign Minister, ViceAdmiral Montes. She emphasized again, the urgency of the Argentine government solving Dagmar's case.

-During the month of February, Amnesty International adopts the case of Dagmar Hagelin, and communicates with the Argentine government.

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*** It is important to note that during the last 2 to three weeks, several Swedish political parties, as well as religious, youth, student, and labor organizations have sent telegrams to President Videla requesting the release of Dagmar Hagelin. This campaign, waged all over Sweden since Dagmar's disappearance, has been publicized widely by TV, radio, and newspapers.

A NOTE FROM DAGMAR'S FATHER

"All these facts, of which the Swedish Government is duly aware, have led me to conclude that the Argentine authorities are responsible for the disappearance of my daughter Dagmar. The Argentine Government's refusal to acknowledge at the very least the fate of my daughter is sad proof it does not respect human life nor the concerns of an anguished family.

I have come to the United States to appeal to the great concern for human rights of the American people and the American government. I appeal to you, fellow human beings, as a father, as a human being, to intercede with the Argentine Government, in whatever capacity, so that I may have my daughter back. So that she may return home, or in the worst of cases, so that we may give her a Christian burial.

I thank you all for whatever you might do to help us, and I remain gratefully yours.

D. Hagelin

Ragnar Hagelin

Ragnar Hagelin
Alhagsvagen 36, 5tr
145 59 Norsborg
Sweden

Phone. 0753-86310

October, 20, 1977

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